

FARM EXTRACTS

INFORMATION FROM THE EXPERIMENT STATION—AGRICULTURAL PAPERS AND THE COUNTY AGENT'S OFFICE

Waste Straw And Stover Are Rich In Plant Food

Fertility contained in straw, corn stover and other crop residues will benefit soils as much as that purchased in the form of commercial fertilizers provided careful attention is given to these materials and care taken to see that they are placed on the soil where the plant food may be utilized, soils and crops specialists say. Nearly 1,000,000 tons of straw and 1,500,000 tons of waste corn stover which are not consumed as feed become a part of the manure produced and constitute an important factor in keeping up the yields on Kentucky farms, according to R. E. Stephenson, soils specialist at the College of Agriculture.

That the abundant use of these materials as bedding does not reduce the value of the manure produced is shown by the fact that a ton of straw contains as much nitrogen, nearly as much phosphorus and more than twice as much potash as a ton of manure. Stover is even richer, containing one and three-fourths times as much nitrogen and twice as much potash as manure. Stems of legumes such as clover and soybeans which sometimes go back into the manure contain four times as much nitrogen, two to three times as much phosphorus and about four times as much potash as manure. Similar things are true in regard to the high manurial value of residues of these various crops left in the field at harvest time.

Using commercial fertilizer valuations for plant food a ton of corn stover contains a little more than \$5.00 worth of plant food, a ton of clover more than \$7.00 worth, a ton of straw almost \$5.00 and a ton of average farm manure nearly \$3.00 worth. In view of these facts it is important in keeping up the fertility of the farm to conserve these residues rather than burn them in the field or otherwise allow them to go to waste, and lose all of the organic matter together with most of the nitrogen which they contain, according to Mr. Stephenson. When everything is plowed under the smallest loss in plant food takes place and much needed organic matter is added to the soil.

Farm Youngsters Show New Interest In Clubs

Reports of increases in the enrollment of boys and girls in junior agricultural clubs being received by club authorities at the College of Agriculture from county agents indicate that farm youngsters of the State are showing increased interest in the projects outlined for them in this work. Among the latest reports are those from Breathitt, Lawrence and Jackson counties. The county agents of which anticipate an increase in this year's enrollment over that of last year. In most cases the work is being carried on through the co-operation of school teachers, many of whom have reported a record enrollment from their district.

Lack Of Plant Food Reduces Crop Yields

Lack of available plant food, which is the greatest single factor responsible for the low average crop yields of Kentucky farms, can be remedied best by the use of farm manure and commercial phosphate coupled with the growing of legumes and the practice of green manuring, according to suggestions by crops specialists at the College of Agriculture. Supplying the necessary plant food should increase the State's present average corn yield of 26 bushels an acre to 40 or 45 bushels an acre and the average wheat yield from 13 bushels an acre to 20 or more bushels, they say.

"Either nitrogen or phosphorus, or both, are the limiting factors in determining yields on practically every farm in Kentucky," R. E. Stephenson, a member of the college agronomy department said. "Phosphorus usually must be bought in the form of acid phosphate, basic slag or rock phosphate but it is seldom profitable to purchase nitrogen for use on general field crops because of its cost. As long as the nitrogen deficiency is not made good, however, the use of phosphate cannot be as profitable as it otherwise should be. In other words, phosphorus will not give its best results until the nitrogen is provided with it."

"Since manure is relatively rich in nitrogen, it is an excellent form of fertilizer to use with phosphate which every farmer can purchase on an economical basis. Manure and phosphate, when used together on soils needing both phosphorus and soil and gives it the desired granular

surplus bulls in their herds and in many cases have fed them out for the market as steers, according to the cattlemen. The sales which are being planned are expected not only to furnish a market for these animals but also make it possible for farmers to obtain superior breeding animals at a reasonable price. Breeders having surplus sires will send them to an auction sale to be held at a central point in the county, according to present plans.

Blue Grass Poultrymen Completing Show Plans

Plans for a winter show at Lexington, Dec. 27 to 31 by the Blue Grass Poultry Association are taking on a definite form and give promise of making the proposed event one of the best poultry displays ever seen in that section, according to an announcement by A. S. Chapin, poultry specialist at the College of Agriculture and president of the association. The statement of Rhode Island Red and Single Comb White Leghorn breeders together with an educational exhibit by the college and displays of birds by winning counties in the Kentucky State Fair standardization exhibit are expected to make the show of interest to all poultrymen and farmers in Kentucky.

Farmers Stop Guessing On Best Corn Varieties

Farmers in Fulton, Carlisle, Graves, Ballard and McCracken counties who co-operated with their county agents and the extension division of the College of Agriculture during the past year in conducting corn variety tests have eliminated much of the guessing which usually accompanies the selection of the best variety of corn for a given section, according to a report of Ralph Kenney, crops extension specialist from the college. The tests will be continued for several years in an effort to determine definitely which varieties are best suited to different sections of Kentucky.

In the 21 variety tests which the farmers conducted this year, Pride of Silene yielded an average of 49.8 bushels an acre, Boone County White an average of 37.8 bushels an acre, Reid's Yellow Dent an average of 34.9 bushels an acre, Iowa Silvermine an average of 32.3 bushels an acre and Hickory King an average of 29 bushels an acre. These yields constitute the ones given in the first reports received from 27 counties in which variety tests were conducted during the past summer. In most tests several local varieties were included in the work and in several cases gave higher yields than any of the five varieties listed.

Chill Weather Requires Care In Marketing Hogs

Special care is necessary at this time of the year to avoid losses through overheating and subsequently chilling hogs being sent to the market, according to marketing specialists at the College of Agriculture. There is serious danger that animals which are overheated while being loaded will become chilled on their way to market with the result that they catch cold and soil at a disadvantage, the specialists say. Careless loading, hard driving and mistreatment of the animals must be guarded against carefully, they say.

Farm And Home News From Over Kentucky

Campbell county farmers have given special attention to cover crops this fall with the result that few fields in the county in which soil washing might occur will be bare this winter, according to a report from County Agent H. F. Link.

Poultry, dairying, seed selection, orcharding and swine feeding are to receive special attention from farmers in the Forest Grove community of Crittenden county during the coming year, these phases of farming having been included in the community program of work which they have outlined under the direction of County Agent John R. Spencer.

Members of the Nashville Junior Agricultural Club in Washington county, recently staged a feature event when they held a junior club carnival having appropriate side shows and a number of other attractions, according to a report from Assistant County Agent H. R. Cottrell. Proceeds from the carnival will be used to purchase a sewing machine for the club.

Members of junior agricultural clubs in Warren county who raise pigs for their project during the coming year are to have exceptional opportunities in obtaining a start as swine growers as a result of plans being made by breeders of purebred hogs who are co-operating with County Agent W. H. Rogers. According to present plans prominent breed-

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ers in the county will furnish purebred animals to the club members at a reasonable price in order to give them a start in the work.

Considerable interest has been aroused among Boyle county farmers in the eradication of cattle tuberculosis as a result of a recent moving picture show in which the film entitled, "Out of the Shadows," was shown, according to County Agent C. L. Taylor. More than 830 persons attended the meeting.

Good results being obtained by the co-operative purebred Holstein sire association in Campbell county have aroused so much interest that Jersey breeders of the county are planning on a similar organization, a report from County Agent H. F. Link states.

PASSENGER FARES REDUCED

Passenger fares throughout the country will be reduced by eight per cent January 1, as a result of the elimination of the war tax. The cut is the first basic change in passenger tariffs since August 25, 1920. The war tax was eliminated under the new tax bill passed just before congress adjourned.

While the cut is not large it is general and applies on railroad passenger tickets of every description in the United States. It is also intimated that many of the railroads favor making an additional reduction in passenger rates, possibly knocking off six-tenths of a cent a mile.

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